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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Rice Gives Turkey Support For EU - Sabah  
Rice Gives Turkey Strong EU Support - Aksam  
Athens' EU Support for Turkey Won't Change - Milliyet  
The Guardian: Turkey May Be Victim of French EU Vote - Sabah  
Anti-Syria Journalist Killed in Bomb Attack in Beirut -  
Sabah  
Serbian President Promises to Catch Karadzic, Mladic - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Edelman: Those Who Undermine US-Turkey Relations Should be Countered - Zaman  
Rice: A United Europe Including Turkey Will Benefit All - Yeni Safak  
European Press Says EU Constitution is Dead - Zaman  
French, Dutch Rejections of Constitution a Veto for EU Leaders - Yeni Safak  
Kasir Assassination Shakes Lebanon - Radikal  
Zebari Assures Rice on Role of Sunnis - Cumhuriyet  
A War-Like Day in Iraq: 12 Killed, 37 Wounded - Cumhuriyet  
400 Palestinians Released by Israel Return Home - Cumhuriyet  
US 'Bought' Gitmo Detainees from Tribes in Afghanistan - Cumhuriyet  
China-Russia Finalize Border Agreement - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Edelman Addresses US-Turkish Business Council Meeting: US Ambassador Eric Edelman told the US-Turkish Business Council's annual conference in Istanbul that trade relations between Turkey and the United States are not at the same level as the political and security relationship between the two allies, papers report. Edelman criticized excessive red tape, corruption, and a 'bureaucratic mentality' in Turkey, and reiterated the need for reforms. He noted that US investment levels in Turkey have remained low when total US foreign direct investment around the world continues to be strong. Edelman complained that these 'fundamental realities' are holding back trade and investment between the two countries. Ambassador Edelman warned against 'misguided' ideas, such as public calls earlier this year for boycotts of US companies in Turkey. Edelman said that such ideas should be 'countered and contradicted.' He also commented on the recent visit to north Cyprus by US Congressmen, and noted that the Bush Administration is making good on its commitment to ending the isolation of Turkish Cypriots.

Secretary Rice Supports Turkey's EU Bid: Turkish media

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report Secretary Rice's remarks in support of Turkey's EU membership drive at a press conference at the US-EU ministerial meeting in Washington. 'A Europe that is outward-looking, not inward-looking, is extremely important to completing Europe's integration and Europe's unity -- and that includes Turkey,' Rice said. Rice noted that the US has been working with the EU and NATO in supporting efforts for democratization in Central and Eastern Europe, and urged Europe to continue on that path: 'Everyone, including Turkey, has a stake in a Europe that is united around common values,' the Secretary remarked.

US State Department Official Evaluates Turkey's EU Chances: "Milliyet" reports from Washington on a background briefing by an unidentified senior US State Department official, who assessed the impact of the rejection of the European Union constitution in referenda in France and the Netherlands on Turkey's chances of joining the European bloc. 'Whether Turkey will become a full EU member depends ultimately on the extent to which Turkey can transform itself,' the US official said. The official warned against developments

which may lead to a Europe that closes its doors to new candidates that show themselves fit for EU membership. The US official noted that in Poland in 1988, only 'humorists' and 'banned dissidents' were talking about their country becoming a member of the European Union and NATO.

'However,' the official said, 'what was once seen as humor has become a reality today, because the Poles have managed to reform themselves.'

**Edogan to Attend 'American Davos':** Prime Minister Erdogan is to attend the Sun Valley Conference, to be held July 6-10 in Sun Valley, Idaho, "Hurriyet" reports. The conference, billed as 'an American Davos,' brings together some 200 American business owners and CEOs with world leaders.

**Erdogan Reshuffles Cabinet:** Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday announced a reshuffle in his cabinet after Agriculture Minister Sami Guclu, Public Works Minister Zeki Ergezen, and State Minister for Women's Affairs Guldal Aksit resigned from their posts. Erdogan said they had been replaced by Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Faruk Nafis Ozak and Nimet Cubuk. Papers comment that Erdogan has partially reshuffled his cabinet, while leaving key ministers at their posts, and that the changes were not surprising, as the sacked ministers had drawn criticism that they were unsuccessful.

**"First Prosecution For Statement on Armenian Claims":** An Ankara prosecutor has for the first time brought charges against someone for expressing the view that there were massacres of Armenians in Anatolia in 1915. If the defendant, lawyer Medeni Ayhan, is convicted for expressing these views, it will represent the first implementation of Article 312 of the revised penal code, which envisages criminal penalties for 'those who defend views that are contrary to the these of the state.' The charges against Ayhan under Article 312 also include his alleged statement that 'I am from the Kurdish nation and speak as a citizen of Kurdistan.' But also included in the prosecution's case are Ayhan's alleged comments on the Armenia question: 'The Ottoman Empire, along with the Hamidiye Regiments and the Committee for Union and Progress, had a role in the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915.' If Ayhan is convicted and sentenced for his comments on the Armenian issue, it could open the way for cases to be opened against many others who defend views contrary to the official version of events.

**Syria Tests Missiles:** International wire services cite a 'New York Times' story reporting Israeli officials as claiming that Syria tested three Scud missiles last week, including one that broke up over Turkey's southern province of Hatay. The missiles were fired last Friday from northern Syria in the first such tests by Syria since 2001. The tests were part of a Syrian missile development project using North Korean technology and designed to deliver air-burst chemical weapons, the report says.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: The EU Constitution

**"After Holland"**  
Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (6/3): "After the French and the Dutch referenda results, it seems that the United Kingdom will skip the process altogether. From now on, the EU will have to focus on the nation-state system rather than a confederation. In fact, this serves as a more appropriate basis for the EU vision. The essence of the European Union envisages economic welfare and peace among its members. Interference in the affairs of nation-states are not part of it. . The EU certainly will continue to function, but the major focus will be given to the individual nation-states rather than the constitution. This process will only help Turkey become a member within shorter period of time than expected. However, it is up to Turkey to use this historic shift to its advantage. Turkey can't afford to miss the chance presented by these developments."

**"France and the Netherlands Strike a Blow Against the EU"**  
Erhan Basyurt commented in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (6/3): "The rejection of the EU constitution by the French and Dutch people damaged the future of Europe more than it damaged Turkey's EU membership prospects. As a matter of fact, there is no direct connection between the rejection of the EU constitution and Turkey's membership. Regardless of whether the EU constitution is ultimately ratified, Turkey will start negotiations with the EU on October 3. Nine countries have approved the constitution so far. Most likely the UK, Denmark, and Poland also will say 'no' to the constitution. The future of the EU constitution process will be shaped at the upcoming EU summit. The members will search for a solution at the summit. It is obvious that the EU has been damaged by the 'no' votes, but the European 'culture of reconciliation' will undoubtedly produce new solutions to overcome the crisis."

**"Back to the Nation-State"**

Haluk Ulman observed in the economic-political "Dunya" (6/3): "The rejection of the EU Constitution by France and the Netherlands clearly indicates that the nation-state system is not finished, even in Europe. Despite efforts by the EU officials to play down the results of the last two referenda, a single European entity with one president, one capital, and a unified political system now appears to be an almost impossible goal. . It is obvious that both French and Dutch voters are asking for the right to determine their own future. They want to have a direct say over their own political, economic, and social needs. In effect, they are advocating a return to the nation-state system."

EDELMAN